BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-6330 DECEMBER 15, 1978
GORSKI/LEAVITT

THIS WEEK #50

ANNCR:

THIS WEEK.

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY ... A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF SOME OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE LAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS ----------.

NARR:

PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD A WASHINGTON NEWS CONFERENCE THIS WEEK THAT THERE HAS BEEN GOOD PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO NEGOTIATE A NEW U.S. SOVIET STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY -- SALT TWO. ALTHOUGH FINAL AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IF THE SOVIET UNION IS -- IN MISTER CARTER'S WORDS "FORTHCOMING" THERE WILL BE A NEW AGREEMENT WITHOUT MUCH FURTHER DELAY.

TOWARD THAT END, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO WILL MEET IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK -- ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (DECEMBER 21 AND 22) -- TO RESUME THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS.

PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO COMMENTED ON REPORTS THAT HE IS PLANNING TO MEET WITH SOVIET PRESIDENT LEONID BREZHNEV IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THIS WAS MISTER CARTER'S RESPONSE:

<u>TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER</u>

"I THINK THAT AS WE APPROACH THE TIME THAT WE ARE SURE THAT THE ITEMS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED THAT ARE STILL UNDER NEGOTIATION, AT THAT TIME WE WILL HAVE A SUMMIT MEETING. AND AT THAT SUMMIT MEETING WE WILL DISCUSS NOT ONLY (THE MATTER) OF CONCLUDING THE SALT AGREEMENT OFFICIALLY BUT (WE WILL) ALSO HAVE A BROAD AGENDA OF OTHER ITEMS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO US AND THE SOVIET UNION."

NARR:

MISTER CARTER ALSO NOTED THAT FUTURE TRADE RELATIONS WITH BOTH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA DEPEND ON THEIR OVERALL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF IRAN, THE PRESIDENT REITERATED HIS PLEDGE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THAT STRIFE-TORN NATION. HE ALSO CLEARLY CAUTIONED AGAINST INTERFERENCE BY ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN IRAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS -- AND HIS REMARK WAS INTERPRETED AS A WARNING TO THE SOVIET UNION.

AS TO THE OVERALL SITUATION IN IRAN AND THE FUTURE OF THE SHAH, THE PRESIDENT HAD THIS TO SAY:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- CARTER

"I FULLY EXPECT THE SHAH TO MAINTAIN POWER IN IRAN AND... THE PRESENT PROBLEMS IN IRAN TO BE RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN DEPLORABLE INSTANCES OF BLOODSHED WHICH WE WOULD CERTAINLY WANT TO AVOID, OR SEE AVOIDED, I THINK THE PREDICTIONS OF DOOM AND DISASTER THAT CAME FROM SOME SOURCES HAVE CERTAINLY NOT BEEN REALIZED AT ALL. THE SHAH HAS OUR SUPPORT AND HE ALSO HAS OUR CONFIDENCE."

NARR:

EXPANDING ON THE IRANIAN CRISIS, MISTER CARTER NOTED THAT IRAN HAS A HISTORY OF STABLE GOVERNMENTS GOING BACK TO ITS INCEPTION AS A STATE 2500 YEARS AGO. AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CURRENT" DIFFICULT SITUATION" THERE -- AS HE PUT IT -- WHICH "HAS BEEN EXACERBATED" BY UNCONTROLLED STATEMENTS FROM FOREIGN NATIONS THAT ENCOURAGE BLOODBATHS AND VIOLENCE," WILL BE PEACEFULLY RESOLVED. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARK ON THAT POINT WAS SEEN AS CRITICISM OF CALLS IN PARIS, BY THE EXILED IRANIAN SHIITE RELIGIOUS LEADER, THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI, FOR THE VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF THE SHAH.

MEANWHILE, THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN IRAN CONTINUED TENSE THIS WEEK AFTER LAST WEEKEND'S GENERALLY PEACEFUL MASS

DEMONSTRATIONS IN TEHRAN AGAINST THE SHAH. THE PEACEFUL NATURE OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS WAS ATTRIBUTED TO THE IRANIAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, FIRST, TO ALLOW THE DEMONSTRATIONS, AND SECOND, NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THEM, IF THEIR MANAGERS MADE SURE THEY WERE PEACEFUL.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL TO CONCLUDE A PEACE TREATY BY DECEMBER 17 -- THE THREE MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS -- FAILED TO MEET THAT DEADLINE TO WHICH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN HAD PLEDGED THEMSELVES.

THE MAIN PROBLEM CONTINUED TO BE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES OVER TWO KEY POINTS. ONE: EGYPT'S WISH THAT THE TREATY NOT PREVENT IT FROM COMING TO THE AID OF OTHER ARAB NATIONS IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT. ON THAT QUESTION, ISRAEL WAS FIRM IN ITS VIEW THAT THE TREATY MUST HAVE PRIMACY OVER ANY INTER-ARAB RELATIONSHIP. SECONDLY, CAIRO AND JERESALEM CONTINUED TO DIFFER OVER THE QUESTION OF LINKING THE TREATY TO TARGET DATES FOR PALESTINIAN AUTONOMY ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE JOURNEYED TO THE MIDDLE EAST, FOR TALKS IN CAIRO AND JERUSALEM, TO EXPLORE WAYS OF RESOLVING THESE QUESTIONS. BUT BY MIDWEEK, IT SEEMED EVIDENT THAT, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, THE DIFFERENCES COULD NOT BE SETTLED. SO MISTER VANCE RETURNED TO WASHINGTON TO FOCUS ON ANOTHER KEY TASK: PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S SALT TALKS IN GENEVA WITH SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO.

MISTER VANCE, DURING HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP, HAD ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER GOLDA MEIR. THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS HAD LINED THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM TO WATCH THE FUNERAL CORTEGE WIND ITS WAY, IN DRIVING RAIN, TO THE MOUNT HERZL CEMETERY WHERE MANY OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS ARE BURIED.

NO EULOGIES WERE SPOKEN. (OPT) THAT WAS MRS. MEIR'S WISH. BUT MRS. MEIR'S WORDS YEARNING FOR PEACE, CHOSEN FROM HER AUTOBIOGRAPHY, WERE READ. MOURNERS HEARD THIS ANCIENT CHANT:

TAPE: CUT THREE--CHANT (END OPT)

NARR:

SO, AS THE WEEK DREW TO A CLOSE -- A WEEK THAT INCLUDED AWARD OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO MESSERS SADAT AND BEGIN FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO REACH A PEACE TREATY -- IT WAS STILL NOT CLEAR HOW OR WHEN THAT PACT WOULD BE CONCLUDED.

FRICTIONS BETWEEN CHINA AND VIETNAM OVER BORDER INCIDENTS, AS WELL AS HANOI'S CONFLICT WITH CHINA'S ALLY, CAMBODIA, WERE UNDERSCORED THIS WEEK BY WARNINGS FROM PEKING TO VIETNAM. VOA CORRESPONDENT WAYNE COREY SENT THIS REPORT FROM HONG KONG:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- COREY (BEING GOTTEN)

"IT'S NOW CLEAR THAT CHINA IS DELIBERATELY AIMING SOME SIGNIFICANT WARNINGS AT VIETNAM WHICH GO CONSIDERABLY BEYOND ROUTINE DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS OR COMPLAINTS IN THE CHINESE PRESS. THE PRO-PEKING HONG KONG NEWSPAPER, TA KUNG PAO, HAS GIVEN PROMINENT FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION TO COMMENTS MADE BY CHINESE VICE PREMIER LI HSIEN-NIEN. HE SAID ON WEDNESDAY THAT CHINA'S RESTRAINT IS LIMITED AND THAT THE VIETNAMESE SHOULD NOT THINK CHINA IS WEAK AND CAN BE BULLIED. (OPT) THESE WORDS WERE BROADCAST ON RADIO PEKING'S VIETNAMESE SERVICE TO VIETNAM...ANALYSTS ERE IN HONG KONG SAY THAT WHAT CHINA IS NOW TELLING VIETNAM IS SIMILAR TO WHAT PEKING TOLD NEW DELHI JUST BEFORE CHINESE AND INDIAN TROOPS FOUGHT A BRIEF BORDER WAR IN THE EARLY 1960S. BUT THE ANALYSTS ADD THAT IT WOULD BE FOOLISH TO PREDICT CHINA'S RESPONSE AS ITS RELATIONS WITH ITS SOUTHERN COMMUNIST NEIGHBOR, VIETNAM, CONTINUE TO WORSEN." (END OPT)

NARR:

CORRESPONDENT COREY NOTED THAT PEKING'S WARNINGS FOLLOWED AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY HANOI OF THE FORMATION OF A CAMBODIAN REBEL'S GROUP WHICH SAYS IT INTENDS TO OVERTHROW THE PRESENT CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT.

IN CHINA ITSELF, THE WALL POSTER CAMPAIGN WHICH HAS ATTRACTED SO MUCH ATTENTION AROUND THE WORLD -- IN THE WAKE OF UNPRECEDENTED

POSTINGS OF DEMANDS FOR MORE DEMOCRACY IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC -- CONTINUED. BUT AT A MORE MODERATE PACE. CORRESPONDENT COREY REPORTED FROM HONG KONG THAT CHINA-WATCHERS IN THAT OUTPOST SAY THE CAMPAIGN APPEARS TO HAVE TWO KEY, INTERRELATED GOALS: ONE, TO CRITICIZE THE EXCESSES OF THE CULTURAL REVOLITION SOME YEARS AGO, ALONG WITH THE MORE DOCTRINAIRE ASPECTS OF THE LATE CHAIRMAN MAO-TSE-TUNG'S IDEOLOGY; AND, TWO, TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO EXPLORE NEW IDEAS GEARED TO THE MORE OUTWARD-LOOKING POST-MAO CHINESE POLICY.

SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN -- WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE THE NEXT CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA -- VISITED ANGOLA THIS PAST WEEK AND CONFERRED WITH ANGOLAN PRESIDENT AUGOSTINO NETO. ONE ISSUE THAT CAME UP WAS THE SIZEABLE CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY. VOA CORRESPONDENT BOB CHANCELLOR FILED THIS REPORT FROM LUANDA:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- CHANCELLOR

"SENATOR MCGOVERN, IN HIS TALKS WITH ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO AND OTHERS -- INCLUDING THE CUBAN AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA -- REPEATEDLY MADE THE POINT THAT IT IS THE CUBAN PRESENCE THAT CREATES THE MAIN BARRIER TO TO THE UNITED STATES ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA. WELL-INFORMED SOURCES SAY THE SENATOR WAS TOLD THAT THE CUBANS, PARTICULARLY, THE MILITARY PORTION OF THE CUBAN FORCES, ARE WILLING AND EVEN ANXIOUS TO LEAVE ANGOLA IF THE THREAT OF AGGRESSION FROM SOUTH AFRICA CAN BE REMOVED."

NARR:

THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA TOOK PLACE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF REPORTS THAT EVEN MORE CUBANS -- SAID TO BE MOSTLY CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS -- WILL BE ARRIVING. CHANCELLOR ALSO REPORTED THAT ITS APPEARS LUANDA MAY NOW BE SHIFTING ITS CONCERNS AWAY FROM POLITICAL QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO FOCUS ON ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, WHICH ARE SAID TO INCLUDE GROWING DIFFICULTIES IN SUPPLYING FOOD, CLOTHING, AND SHOES TO THE

COUNTRYSIDE. ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO, ACCORDING TO CHANCELLOR, TOLD SENATOR MCGOVERN DURING THEIR TALKS THAT ANGOLA'S IMAGE ABROAD DOES NOT MATCH REALITY AND THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD WELCOME AMERICAN INVESTMENT.

IN LATIN AMERICA, ARGENTINA AND CHILE FAILED THIS WEEK IN THEIR LATEST ATTEMPT TO SETTLE A BOUNDARY DISPUTE OVER THREE SMALL ISLANDS OFF THE SOUTHERN MOST TIP OF SOUTH AMERICA IN THE BEAGLE CHANNEL OFF CAPE HORN. CHILE WAS AWARDED THE VIRTUALLY UNINHABITABLE ISLANDS BY INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION LAST YEAR. BUT ARGENTINA REFUSED TO ACCEPT THAT DECISION BECAUSE BUENOS AIRES FEELS ACCEPTANCE COULD AFFECT ARGENTINE CLAIMS TO LARGE AREAS IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND ANTARCTICA. VOA LATIN AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT JACK CURTISS SENT THIS REPORT AGAINST A BACKDROP OF RUMORS OF ARGENTINE MILITARY MOBILIZATION.

TAPE: CUT SIX-CURTISS

"LAST MONTH THE TWO NATIONS ENDED SIX MONTHS OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT REACHING A BASIC ACCORD. SINCE THEN ARGENTINA HAS PROPOSED THAT THE VATICAN MEDIATE THE DISPUTE. POPE JOHN PAUL THE SECOND'S ONLY RESPONSE THUS FAR HAS BEEN TO SEND THE PRESIDENTS OF BOTH NATIONS IDENTICAL MESSAGES URGING THEM TO SEEK A PEACEFUL AND JUST SETTLEMENT."

NARR:

ON THE SPACE-EXPLORATION FRONT, THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEK ACHIEVED WHAT MANY SCIENTISTS CONSIDER A MAJOR ADVANCE. UNMANNED AMERICAN SPACE PROBES THAT LANDED ON THE PLANET VENUS DISCOVERED SURPRISINGLY LARGE AMOUNTS OF THE ARGON - 36 ISOTOPE. THIS IS A SUBSTANCE PRESENT IN THE ATMOSPHERE OF BOTH EARTH AND MARS, BUT IN MUCH SMALLER AMOUNTS. THE ABUNDANCE OF THE ARGON-36 IN THE VENUSIAN ATMOSPHERE CAME AS A SCIENTIFIC SURPRISE. (OPT) THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS FOR ITS PRESENCE ONE IS THAT VENUS -- UNLIKE THE EARTH AND MARS -- SOMEHOW RETAINED MOST OF THIS GAS IN ITS ATMOSPHERE WHILE EARTH AND MARS

LOST MOST OF THEIRS. THE OTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THAT VENUS HAD MUCH MORE OF THE SUBSTANCE TO BEGIN WITH. IF THE LATTER NOTION IS CORRECT, SCIENTISTS MIGHT HAVE TO REVISE EXISTING THEORIES ABOUT THE FORMATION OF THE PLANETS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. IT HAD BEEN THOUGHT THAT THEY ALL CAME INTO EXISTENCE MORE OR LESS THE SAME WAY. THAT MAY NOT BE TRUE, AFTER ALL. MUCH MORE RESEARCH WILL BE NECESSARY BEFORE THE TRUE HISTORY OF OUR CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE -- THE SOLAR SYSTEM - IS FULLY CLEAR. (END OPT)

HERE WAS OTHER NEWS THIS WEEK...IN GENEVA, REPRESENTATIVES OF THIRTY-SEVEN NATIONS ENDED A TWO-DAY MEETING AIMED IT FINDING WAYS TO HELP THE INCREASING FLOOD OF REFUGEES FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA -- VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA. OFFICIALS ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE SAID THEY WILL CONSULT WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE GROWING NEED FOR INCREASE FUNDING TO CARE FOR AND RESETTLE THESE HOMELESS PEOPLE. THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED BEFORE THE MEETING THAT IT WOULD BE DOUBLING TO MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND THE NUMBER OF INDOCHINESE ALLOWED TO ENTER BY THE END OF NEXT APRIL. THIS WOULD BRING THE NUMBER OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE THE END OF THE INDOCHINA WAR TO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND.

A CONTIGENT OF ABOUT TWO HUNDRED U.S. TROOPS FLEW HOME FROM SOUTH KOREA IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW U.S. GROUND FORCES FROM THAT NATION. MORE WILL BE WITHDRAWN AT PRE-PLANNED INTERVALS.

A MAJOR OIL FIRE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SET OFF BY BLACK NATIONALISTS IN RHODESIA DESTROYED AN ESTIMATED TWELVE MILLION GALLONS (ABOUT 40 MILLION LITERS) OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL IN STORAGE TANKS IN SALISBURY. RHODESIA IS IN STRONG NEED OF FUEL BECAUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE EMBARGO AGAINST THAT COUNTRY.

AND MEMBERS OF OPEC -- THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES WERE GATHERING IN ABU DHABI AT WEEK'S END -- TO DECIDE ON FUTURE CARTEL OIL PRICES. THE GENERAL EXPECTATION WAS THAT PRICES WOULD BE RAISED.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ---------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ..... WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

-0-

WJL/PY